

Contemplating the Cross

If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD.

Leviticus 1:3 (KJV) 



The penalty of sin had to be paid in full, and partial payment was not sufficient. The problem was that no mortal man could pay the price. This is because we are born already in a sinful state and an offering without blemish (a completely sinless life) was the requirement. Even at our very best we come up short (**Romans 3:23 KJV** ). At first a bullock was used, but this required never ending sacrifices.

When Christ went to the cross He became that living sacrifice once and for all for the sins of the whole world (**1 John 2:2 KJV** ). He died for the sins of everyone whether they ultimately chose to serve Him or not. On judgment day there will be no excuse. Although He died for all sinners it is our prerogative to reject His sacrifice and take that guilt upon our own heads. But the price of doing so is eternity in Hell.

It Cost Us Everything

Something to consider about the cross is that to pay our debt in full Christ had to give His life in full. It cost Him everything. But what about us? How much does salvation cost us?

And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

Mark 12:42-44 (KJV) 

We could not pay the debt we owe, Jesus did it for us. But what of the widow's mite? She gave everything she had, and we are required to do the same. Need further proof?

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Matthew 13:45-46 (KJV) 

Once again we are shown that the man seeking goodly pearls had to sell everything he had. The fact of the matter is as it cost Christ everything it costs us everything as well. But this truth is not taught in the churches, is it? Now ask yourselves why. The harlot churches are teaching that Jesus died so you could have riches in this world but what of Lazarus the beggar? There are a lot of counterfeit items that will do the job but salvation is not one of them.

Have You Counted the Cost?

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.
Luke 14:27-30 (KJV) 

We cannot get into Heaven on a discounted salvation which is simply giving anything less than all to God. Have you sincerely given all to Christ? Have you counted the cost? Let me tell you my story.

I had a Resident Manager job I was very happy with for nearly twelve years. I had excellent working relationships with my manager and board of directors until one day things seemingly went sour overnight. I didn't really understand what happened until long after the fact when God showed me the truth.

A man was assigned to get me fired, and it was no easy task. He first had to purchase an apartment in my building, get on the board of directors then become president to get me fired. He took an immediate disliking to me from the day he moved in which I didn't understand at the time. He had to first get my boss fired because we had a strong working relationship based on mutual trust.

I was fired without cause and forced to leave my home. What I found out later was that at the very next meeting this man stunned the board of directors when he announced that he had done what he had set out to do and resigned as board president. Then he quickly sold his apartment and moved away.

Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.
Job 1:10-11 (KJV) 

Okay, so what brought this all about? Years later God showed me an incident I had completely forgotten about that occurred just before this all transpired. What seemed to me like a small prayer at the time turned out to have shaken things up quite a bit in the spirit world. One day I was praying to Him and I said out loud "I don't care about my job, possessions or anything in this world Lord, I just want more of you!" Be careful what you pray because Satan can and will petition God for things in your life just as he did Job.

Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.
Luke 18:22-23  **(KJV)**

Giving God everything is not something you can consciously do. What I mean by that is God doesn't expect us to wake up one morning and decide to sell all our possessions and become a monk. Giving all we have to God requires first counting the cost then making a sincere decision in our hearts to lay everything we have at the foot of the cross and let Him decide what that means in our lives. Some may lose jobs, others relationships what it is for you only God knows. Are you willing to lay it all at the foot of the cross?

